

REMARKS

Entry of this Amendment Under 37 C.F.R. 1.116 is respectfully requested because it cancels claims, thereby placing the application into allowance or in better form for appeal. No new matter is believed to be added to the application by this Amendment.

Status of the Claims

Upon entry of this Amendment, claims 1, 3-10 and 12-16 are pending in the application. Claims 2 and 11 are canceled by this Amendment. The amendments to claim 1 incorporate the subject matter of claim 2. The amendments to claim 6 incorporate the subject matter of claim 11.

The Drawings

The Examiner requires formally amended drawings to be filed. Formally amended are being filed concurrently with this paper.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 112, First Paragraph

Claims 1 and 6 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter, which is not described in the specification. Claim 10 is rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, first paragraph as containing subject matter which was not described in

the specification in a way as to enable one skilled in the art to make and/or use the invention. Applicant traverses.

At paragraph 2 of the Office Action, the Examiner takes the position that the limitation "the etch/strip apparatus is a single piece of equipment" is not supported by the specification. However, this limitation finds support for example at page 4, line 19, page 6, lines 24 and 25, and page 7, line 2. Further, at page 3, lines 1-2 of the Office Action the Examiner admits the unified nature of the invention stating that the "specification only supports having plural pieces of equipment connected to create a **unified (whole) system.**" (emphasis added).

As a result, it is clear that the specification would enable a person having ordinary skill in the art to make and/or use the invention as is set forth in independent claims 1 and 6.

Further, at paragraph 3 of the Office Action the Examiner asserts that "It is unclear how the pipe shower functions to prevent the substrate from drying." (referring to claim 10) However, this type of functioning of a pipe shower is so evident that a person having ordinary skill in the art would know how to make and use this embodiment without undue experimentation. "The test of enablement is whether one reasonably skilled in the art could make or use the invention from the disclosure in the patent coupled with information known in the art without undue

experimentation." United States v. Telectronics, Inc., 8 USPQ2d 1217 (Fed. Cir. 1988); In re Stephens, 188 USPQ 659 (CCPA 1976).

As a result, the instant claims are fully enabled by the specification, and a person having ordinary skill in the art would know how to make and/or use the invention. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) Over DeOrnellas

Claims 1, 3-10 and 12-14 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 102(b) as being anticipated by DeOrnellas (U.S. Patent No. 5,670,239). Applicant traverses.

Independent claim 1 as amended incorporates the subject matter of claim 2. Independent claim 6 as amended incorporates the subject matter of claim 11. Claims 2 and 11 are free of this anticipation rejection over DeOrnellas. As a result, independent claims 1 and 6 are free of this anticipation rejection over DeOrnellas. Claims dependent upon independent claims 1 and 6 are patentable for at least the above reasons alone. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Rejection Under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) Over DeOrnellas in View of Toshima

Claims 2, 11, 15 and 16 are rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over DeOrnellas in view of Toshima (U.S. Patent No. 6,007,675). Applicant traverses.

Distinctions of the invention over DeOrnellas and Toshima were presented in the Amendment filed September 3, 2002. DeOrnellas fails to disclose or suggest an elevator. DeOrnellas additionally fails to disclose or suggest an apparatus that is a single unit. The Examiner turns to teachings of Toshima for an etch/strip/cleaning system with an elevator.

At page 6, lines 7-8 of the Office Action, the Examiner asserts that "the Applicants specification and the DeOrnellas reference teaching having plural pieces of equipment connected to create a unified (whole) system." However, Figure 1 of DeOrnellas shows different modules butted up against each other, and transfer is accomplished using a robot arm 38. This is fundamentally different than the unified transfer line shown in Figure 3 of the invention.

As a result, a person having ordinary skill in the art would not be motivated by the teachings of DeOrnellas combined with Toshima to produce the claimed embodiment of the invention wherein the "apparatus is a single piece of equipment" as is set forth in independent claims 1 and 6. Thus a *prima facie* case of obviousness has not been made over independent claims 1 and 6.

Claims dependent upon claims 1 and 6 are patentable for at least the above reasons alone. Accordingly, this rejection is overcome and withdrawal thereof is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

The Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it raises no new issues. Alternatively, the Examiner is respectfully requested to enter this Reply After Final in that it places the application in better form for Appeal.

Should there be any outstanding matters that need to be resolved in the present application, the Examiner is respectfully requested to contact Robert E. Goozner, Ph.D. (Reg. No. 42,593) at the telephone number of the undersigned below, to conduct an interview in an effort to expedite prosecution in connection with the present application.

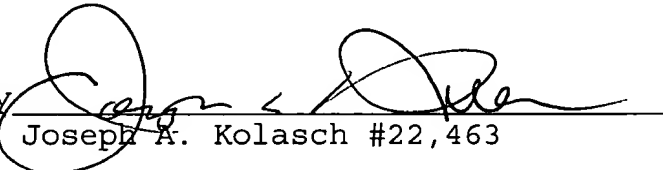
Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the application by this Amendment.


If necessary, the Commissioner is hereby authorized in this, concurrent, and future replies, to charge payment or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 02-2448 for any additional fees required under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 or 1.17; particularly, extension of time fees.

Respectfully submitted,

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Attachment: Version with Markings to Show Changes Made

(Rev. 02/20/02)

VERSION WITH MARKINGS TO SHOW CHANGES MADE

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 2 and 11 have been canceled.

The claims have been amended as follows:

1. (Twice Amended) An etch/strip apparatus integrated with cleaning equipment, comprising:

an etching line for etching and cleaning a substrate;

a stripping line for stripping the substrate, the stripping line being connected to the etching line; [and]

a cleaning line installed on the stripping line to clean and dry the [substrate,] substrate; and

an elevator for conveying the substrate from the stripping line to the cleaning line, wherein the etch/strip apparatus is a single piece of equipment.

6. (Twice Amended) An integrated etch/strip/clean apparatus, comprising:

an etching line for etching and cleaning a substrate;

a stripping line for stripping said substrate; [and]

a cleaning line integrated with said etching and stripping lines to clean and dry the [substrate,] substrate; and

an elevator to transfer said substrate from said stripping
line to said cleaning line, wherein the etch/strip/clean
apparatus is a single piece of equipment.